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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Granting of travel assistance to least developed and other developing countries that are members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

Letter dated 6 October 1992 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I wish to refer to the matter raised in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/454) concerning the question of granting travel assistance to least developed and other developing countries that are members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The report was circulated under agenda items 104 (Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993) and 131 (Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fifth session). The Sixth Committee has debated on the report in conjunction with its consideration of the report of UNCITRAL on its twenty-fifth session. It also discussed the matter during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and resolution 46/56 B was adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1991.

In the course of the discussion on this item this year, nearly half the speakers stressed the importance of finding a solution to the question of providing travel assistance to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to ensure their participation in the work of UNCITRAL in accordance with the principle of the universality of international trade law. They noted that it was regrettable to see that participation from the developing countries in the activities of UNCITRAL was minimal, and that it was in the interest of developed countries to ensure that delegations of the

developing countries attended the meetings of UNCITRAL and its various working groups to ensure representation of the major legal systems and the universal acceptance of instruments elaborated under the auspices of UNCITRAL. Some delegations refrained from commenting on this item, which was also before the Fifth Committee.

I understand in this context that the Fifth Committee intends during the current session to undertake a comprehensive review of various kinds of financial entitlements and assistance provided to a number of United Nations bodies, including UNCITRAL. After consultations with the Bureau and the members of the Sixth Committee, may I suggest therefore that the Fifth Committee, to which this question was also referred by the Secretary-General, consider this matter and take a substantive decision on it, with due regard to the views expressed in the Sixth Committee on the matter during the forty-sixth session and the current session of the General Assembly.

I would appreciate it if the Fifth Committee could do so not later than the second half of October 1992 and advise me of its decision before the Sixth Committee concludes its consideration of this item.

(Signed) Javad ZARIF